



Reply to Office Action of Dec. 12, 2003 (Art Unit 1641: K. Padmanabhan)

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Invention Summary

The invention disclosed in US 09/931,883 relates to a method to detect DNA structure-specific binding proteins while bound to an immobilized DNA substrate. The method also relates to the identification of modulators of DNA structure-specific binding proteins which could be pharmaceutically relevant compounds.

General Response to Final Action

In a response filed on Sept. 03, 2003 I amended claims which I believed embodied the current invention. These amendments provided for the detection of a protein-DNA complex immobilized to a solid-support. However, the examiner pointed out that the claims, as amended, only required that the DNA be immobilized and that the protein could be detected indirectly. Thus, a request for continued examination has been submitted such that a further amendment of such claims could clarify that the DNA-protein complex is immobilized during the detection step.

Specific Responses to Detailed Action

My responses to the Action have been numbered to correspond to those paragraphs numbered in the Action.

1. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 19-20, and 23 were rejected as being anticipated by Giordano et al. (US Pat. 5,705,344). Giordano involves the detection of helicase activity through the detection of nucleic acid retained on the solid support. Examiner agreed with this assertion in a prior communication, however pointed out that claims in the instant invention did not exclude